



## THE TIDEWATER MG 'T' CLASSICS

12.28.75

### DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR, ONE AND ALL! Hope Santa filled all stockings with goodies from Abingdon.

Our last meeting was, of course, the Christmas Party at Dave & Helen Barrows'. I think all who were there will agree that it was a good "do" and we all thank you, Dave and Helen, for your warm hospitality and good food and drink. And we all say a big thank you to the brave, strong, energetic, misguided dummies who pumped the player-piano for hours on end in order that the rest of us might sing(?).

JANUARY MEETING. The first meeting of 1976 will be at the home of Henry and Jeannette Blanchard on TUESDAY, January 6th at 7.30 p.m. (for directions, see map attached).

JANUARY ACTIVITY. This will be a technical session, hosted by Jim Banvard, on Sunday, January 18th. It will start at 10 a.m. and continue as long as there are members present, or until dusk - whichever comes first! The first priorities will be any problems on running cars present. After those are fixed, or solved, there will be a demonstration of "How to assemble a transmission" - live! Jim will provide beer, coffee and water - whatever your preference. You may plan to spend the day, or just look in for an hour; you may be sure you will receive good technical advice about your car's problems.

FEBRUARY ACTIVITY. This will be discussed in more detail in the next newsletter, but be sure to mark your calendar for FEBRUARY 8th; we will caravan to Fort Monroe for brunch at the Officers' Club (which some of us did last year and enjoyed so much that it was decided to have a repeat performance). After brunch, we will drive on up to NASA, Langley, and tour the exhibits in the visitors' centre, which are very interesting.

We have talent in our club, folks! The following was written just after our newest member had joined us on the country-lane drive-out to the Back Bay Wildlife Refuge.

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### CONFESSIONS OF AN MGA DRIVER by Mike West

There they are all lined up there with their old MG machines putting away... I'll just slip right in between that TF and that pink TD (or whatever it is)... Slick move! Boy, I bet that impressed them... Quick little reverse, slip in there backwards, slam on the brakes and here I am... Nice looking TF over there, but look at that slanted grille, and, why it only has a 1500cc engine! I'll eat him alive with that 1600 of mine with J.C. Whitney's latest gas-saving RPM-increasing gizmo! TF, Too Fast, he says!

Well, we're off... Great! All of about 40 MPH! This is a race? Oh, a Drive Out, they say... I guess I won't be able to strut my stuff, but I'll get in there and show 'em. (Wonder if I could mount my spare wheel on the outside like that TC up there?) Nice speed here, round that little curve... Gosh, listen to that TD exhaust... What a racket... Are MG's supposed to sound like that? (Wonder if I could punch a hole in my muffler and get that staccato exhaust?) Looks like we're stopping at that gas station... Well I certainly don't need gas! J. C. Whitney sent me a \$4.98 gilhickey to put into my framistat and he said I'd save 25% gas... (Wonder if that TD gas cap would fit my A?) So we're off now - like a herd of turtles - wish they'd let me pass and show 'em my power... That guy in the pink TD (or whatever it is) seems to stick with me even when I lag behind and make it up with a few extra RPMs... Neat-looking grille... (Wonder if I could take that grille of mine out and put in a TD's straight one?) Well, we'r finally stopping for coffee! 'Bout time... I'll just slip in between those two TFs... Neat-

looking fenders, but then mine are streamlined, so I could beat him hands-down at Le Mans or Le I-64. (Wonder if I could get some dune buggy fenders, see, and stick them over my own and epoxy in a headlight?) Neat-looking running boards, too... (Wonder if I could take off my doors, and put TD doors in and have running boards, too? Moss sells the chrome and rubber strips I'd need; but how about that funny handle? Maybe I could just weld it shut and jump in from the top!)

Listen to them talk! "I restored this!"... "He did that!"... "TFs have funny grilles," "TDs don't have original wires."... "TC steering is weak." Man, they really are something" (Wonder how one of those three-spoked steering wheels would look on my A? Heck, I could transplant a TD dash, I bet, too!)

Okay, time to go; now I'll grab the lead! Drat, there goes the TF and that pink TD (or whatever it is)... Can't get this fool thing started...

"Oh, no thank you, I, uh, probably jiggled a wire loose at 110 MPH back there, I'll catch up, heh-heh."

There goes that joker with the shiny TD - heck, he probably has a VW engine! (Yeh, a VW!) Come on, choke, choke it off; get going... Drat... There goes the other TD, too...

Okay, thanks, MGA, I knew you wouldn't let me down... Just gives me a chance to catch up at 5500 RPM in 4th. Now that's a Drive Out! Is that the pink TD (or whatever it is) close behind me?

Yep, there they are, all of 40 MPH... Looks like a bunch of wheel chairs out for a drive!!

(Wonder if I could bend up my hood and mount a straight grille on it? I bet I could get a straight fold-down windshield from Abingdon and mount it on my A, too! And I know I could mount my windshield wiper on top of it!)

Nice little drive, guys, but sort of slow... "Thanks, seeya, lots of grins. We'll do it again next month, I hope!"

Boy, I'll show them as I peel out and escape over the horizon in a REAL MG - even if it isn't in the "T" register.

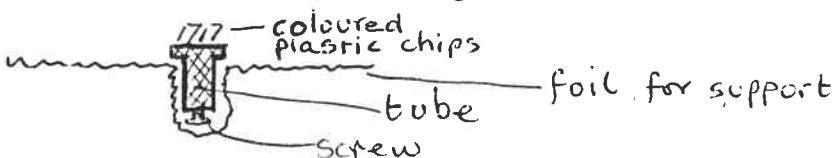
Drat, missing again... Oh well, I can at least go the speed limit and they'll understand!

(Now I wonder if I could get one of those new fiberglass TD kits that fits on a VW and mount it on my A frame and still have this cool speed? Bet I could fool them then! I'd leave them in the dust! Boy, could I fool them - all except the guy in the pink TD - or whatever it is!!!)

"TO ERR IS HUMAN,  
TO REGISTER DIVINE!!!"

#### T - TIPS

HOW TO MAKE A HIGH-BEAM LENS: a) Use some of the amber plastic left over from the pill-bottle we talked about last month - you'll only need a chip. Sand the edges, put glue on it, and drop it into the top of the little tube. OR, b) Know those clear plastic chippings you get in children's craft kits for Tiffany "glass" ornaments? (you bake it in the oven) Get a package of varied colours. Take the high beam lens tube, block up the tube with a screw (fairly snug) to where the lens will rest. Put a couple of plastic chips in the top of the hole. To hold the screw in place and keep the whole kit and caboodle upright in the oven, gather some foil around it, but leave the chips uncovered. Put whole lot in 400° oven for about 5 mins, or until plastic is almost flattened. You might have to do another application of plastic to get the 'lens' to the right level. Use dense-coloured plastic, not pale-blue or lemon)





CARTOON - (or why the Tidewater Club  
doesn't meet in a bar)

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"Buy me a drink, sailor?"

NEWS FROM OUT OF TOWN MEMBERS. Just before Christmas, Mike and I had a call from Bob & Judy Brown, in Michigan. They are settled into their own home which, needless to say, has a 2-car garage to accommodate the TD. But... because of remodelling projects and a yard to lick into shape, Bob hasn't got any further with his TD. Shame on you, Bob! If you want us all to show up for the Spring '77 GOF in Detroit, then you'll have to have a car to show us when we get there!

P.S. Helen and Dave Barrows asked me to say a big "thank you" to the people who prepared some of the food for the party and helped in the kitchen when help was needed.

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